This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-30. canceled

31. (currently amended) A method of generating a classification chain having a plurality of vectors describing a plurality of media entities, comprising:

assigning, by an expert, a first value to a media entity according to a pre-defined perceptual characteristic of media entities;

assigning, by a computing system, a second value to the media entity according to a pre-defined digital signal processing characteristic;

generating a vector based on at least said first value and said second value; and

adding said vector to a classification chain data structure;

wherein a human adds a new subset of perceptual properties to the classification chain data structure defined by the new unclassified data structure.

32. (original) A method according to claim 31, wherein said method is repeated until a sufficient number of vectors have been added to said classification chain data structure, such that said classification chain data structure successfully classifies unclassified media entities within a threshold degree of success.

33. (original) A method according to claim 32, further comprising:

inputting a vector representative of a new unclassified media entity;

comparing said vector to the vector space of the classification chain data structure; and

outputting an estimate of the perceptual class of the new unclassified media entity based upon vectors found in a neighborhood of the classification chain data structure, wherein a neighborhood of vectors is defined as a set of vectors located within a neighborhood distance.

34. (original) A method according to claim 33, further comprising:

outputting an estimate of the confidence level with which said estimate of the perceptual class is correct.

35. (original) A method according to claim 34, wherein if said estimate of the confidence level is low, a human examines the new unclassified media entity and said human determines an action for said classification chain data structure based thereon.

36. canceled

37. canceled

38. (original) A method according to claim 35, wherein the new unclassified media entity is rejected from the classification chain as an outlier.

39. (original) A method according to claim 35, wherein the performance level of the classification chain improves over time due to the examination of unclassified media entities that have a low confidence level associated therewith.

40. (original) A method according to claim 33, wherein it is determined whether said vector representing said new unclassified media entity has been previously processed, thereby obviating the need to re-process said vector via the classification chain.

41. (new) A method of generating a classification chain having a plurality of vectors describing a plurality of media entities, comprising:

assigning, by an expert, a first value to a media entity according to a pre-defined perceptual characteristic of media entities;

assigning, by a computing system, a second value to the media entity according to a pre-defined digital signal processing characteristic;

generating a vector based on at least said first value and said second value; and

adding said vector to a classification chain data structure;

wherein a human modifies an existing subset of perceptual properties represented by the classification chain data structure in accordance with the results of the human examination.

42. (new) A method according to claim 41, wherein said method is repeated until a sufficient number of vectors have been added to said classification chain data structure, such that said classification chain data structure successfully classifies unclassified media entities within a threshold degree of success.

43. (new) A method according to claim 42, further comprising:

inputting a vector representative of a new unclassified media entity;

comparing said vector to the vector space of the classification chain data structure; and

outputting an estimate of the perceptual class of the new unclassified media entity based upon vectors found in a neighborhood of the classification chain data structure, wherein a neighborhood of vectors is defined as a set of vectors located within a neighborhood distance.

44. (new) A method according to claim 43, further comprising:

outputting an estimate of the confidence level with which said estimate of the perceptual class is correct.

45. (new) A method according to claim 44, wherein if said estimate of the confidence level is low, a human examines the new unclassified media entity and said human determines an action for said classification chain data structure based thereon.

46. (new) A method according to claim 45, wherein the new unclassified media entity is rejected from the classification chain as an outlier.

47. (new) A method according to claim 45, wherein the performance level of the classification chain improves over time due to the examination of unclassified media entities that have a low confidence level associated therewith.

48. (new) A method according to claim 43, wherein it is determined whether said vector representing said new unclassified media entity has been previously processed, thereby obviating the need to re-process said vector via the classification chain.